News 7/28/67

Louisiana Report Links 'Plot Figure,' Oswald

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison has been given information that Lee Harvey Oswald and a man wanted for questioning in the Kennedy assassination investigation were picked up together by police here in 1963, the States-Item reported today.

The States-Item first reported that Oswald's companion was David W. Ferrie, identified by Garrison as a central figure in his investigation. But the newspaper said later the second man was not Ferrie.

Before he was found dead Wednesday, Ferrie had insisted he did not know Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the man who killed President John F. Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

The States-Item reported that Garrison's investigators were told by a New Orleans law officer that he found the two men sitting in a parked car near Lake Pontchartrain early one morning in the fall of 1963.

One of the men identified himself as Oswald, the officer said. The States-Item reported in its first edition that the officer—after seeing Ferrie's body—said Ferrie positively was the second man. Later the newspaper said the second man was not Ferrie, but apparently was connected with another aspect of the Garrison probe.

Not Arrested

The officer took the pair to headquarters, the newspaper said, where his superior declined to arrest them on the grounds there was insufficient evidence they were guilty of any wrongdoing.

After the Kennedy assassination, the officer said, he recognized Oswald's face and name from pictures. He said he took no action because it was widely known that Oswald had lived in New Orleans.

Last week, when Ferrie's name was prominently linked to the Garrison probe, the officer gave the district attorney his information, the States-Item said. The officer's name was not given.

[A mysterious visitor has been in Mexico City retracing the steps of Oswald, United Press International reported today.

[An unidentified man asking questions about Oswald was reported by employes of a hotel where Oswald stayed less than two months before Kennedy was slain, and by the owner of a small restaurant where he ate a frugal meal daily.

[Police sources in Mexico City said it would be "logical" for Garrison to check Mexico because of his probe into relations between Oswald and Cubans in Florida and other Southern states.]

Federal investigators are known to have found no evidence linking Ferrie with Oswald or any conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

Note Found

A typewritten note found in Ferrie's apartment after his death contained a bitter indictment of law enforcement officers, courts and American justice in general.

The first paragraph of the note, released on the day Ferrie died, referred to death as a "sweet prospect." Garrison maintains that Ferrie committed suicide, although Coroner Nicholas Chetta has ruled death resulted from natural causes—a ruptured artery in the brain.

Ferrie apparently had never been convicted of any crime. He lost his job as an airline pilot in 1961 after being arrested on a morals charge in suburban Jefferson Parish (county), but the case never went to trial.

Found in Apartment

The coroner gave newsmen today a list of the objects taken from Ferrie's apartment after his death. They included a blue 100-pound practice aerial bomb, a Springfield muzzle-loading rifle, a .22-caliber Remington rifle, a single shot .22-caliber rifle with an altered stock, 20-gauge shotgun shells, two Army Signal Corps field telephones, a bayonet, a flare gun, a radio transmitting tuner unit, a radio receiver tuner unit, .32-caliber empty brass casings, .22-caliber blanks, several cameras and three rolls of undeveloped film.

Dr. Chetta said that another note was found in Ferrie's apartment. Addressed to "Al," it said in part: "When you receive this I will be quite dead, so no answer will be possible." The remainder of the note was phrased in a similar tone of depression, and it concluded: "Hence, I die alone and unloved. As you sow, so shall you reap. Goodbye. Dave."

A third typewritten note, addressed to "Dear Perm," dealt with medical subjects relating to Ferrie's ailments, which included high blood pressure.

A fourth note, which bore the name "Tom Clark," said: "I want to introduce myself. My name is Tom Clark. Dave has been very sick for the last two months and I am nursing him at home. He has a form of encephalitis."

Dr. Chetta told newsmen, however, that Ferrie was not suffering from encephalitis at the time of his death.

The coroner termed Ferrie "definitely a psychopath."